

INSURANCE, INC.  
**Torrence**

921-14th Ave. • P.O. Box 9 • Longview, WA 98632  
Phone (206) 425-4800 • Fax (206) 577-1326

June 27, 1994

ATTN: Dwight Davis  
U. S. EPA  
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117(CR)  
Seattle, WA 98105

RE: Port of Ridgefield

Gentlemen:

We are insurance brokers for the Port of Ridgefield and would like to be on your mailing list as respects the PWT site at Ridgefield, Washington.

Thank you for your response in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

*Jerry*  
Jerry Rasmussen  
JR/aw

7/5/94 - 4<sup>30</sup>: he is back Torrence  
7/6 - 11<sup>10</sup><sub>am</sub>: on phone, left word.  
11<sup>30</sup>: he returned call

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June, 1993

## Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

### RCRA Update Pacific Wood Treating, Corp. Ridgefield, Washington

*Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) has completed the first phase of studies to characterize site conditions and will be conducting a second phase of studies designed to get the additional data needed to select a good approach to site cleanup. EPA anticipates that additional studies will commence this summer.*

#### What did the phase I studies show?

The studies confirmed that soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated. They also detected three groundwater zones: several areas of "perched" groundwater (just below the surface), a shallow alluvial aquifer and the regional Troutdale aquifer. Briefly, some of the highlights are:

- o A layer of oily waste about 9 inches thick was found floating on groundwater about 18 feet below the surface in a shallow well immediately west of the tank farm/retort area.
- o Soil sampling in borings and wells in the tank farm/retort vicinity indicates the presence of elevated levels of pentachlorophenol (PCP), PNAs, gasoline, and diesel; groundwater samples had elevated levels of PCP, PNAs, and volatile organic compounds.
- o PCP contamination of groundwater in both the alluvial and Troutdale aquifers.
- o A shallow perched groundwater aquifer located west of the tank farm/retort area appears to flow toward the wildlife refuge. Soil in this area is contaminated with PCP and arsenic.

#### What will happen next?

The levels of contamination found do not pose an immediate threat to public health. A comprehensive assessment of potential threats to public health and the environment will be conducted. Based on this assessment, cleanup levels and other possible courses of action will be evaluated.

EPA, in consultation with WDOE and USFWS, will review and comment on the May 12, 1993 Data Summary Report, RFI Site Characterization. The Consent Order will be amended to incorporate the additional studies and to revise the schedules for completion of various activities.

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## **How can I get more information?**

Much more detailed information about the results of the initial site characterization studies and the proposed additional studies is presented in the May 12, 1993 Data Summary Report. Please visit a repository and review the report if you would like to read about the details.

## **Public involvement**

Facts sheets such as this will be prepared periodically to keep the public informed of progress on the site.

Information repositories have been established at two locations. The repositories contain documents such as the Consent Order, Work Plans, Study Reports and Fact Sheets.

### **Information repositories are located at:**

#### **Vancouver Public Library**

Attn: Julie Jolly  
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA

#### **Ridgefield City Hall**

Attn: Claudia Schobert  
230 Pioneer  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

### **For more information, contact:**

**Sylvia Burges**  
**EPA Project Coordinator**  
1200 6th Avenue, HW-104  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-1254

**Dan Phalen**  
**EPA Community Relations**  
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-6709

**Or call EPA toll-free:**  
**1-800-424-4EPA**

## Background

Since 1964, Pacific Wood Treating, Corp. has operated a wood treatment facility in Ridgefield, Washington. The facility borders Lake River on the west, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge on the north, and the town of Ridgefield on the south and east.

Over the years, wood products have been treated with a variety of wood preservatives including pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, copper naphthenate, and CCA (a copper, chromium, and arsenic mixture). Releases of these substances have occurred due to spills, drippage, leakage and groundwater runoff. In June 1985, a groundwater study at the PWT facility showed that PCP was present in groundwater beneath the site at levels above the federal drinking water standards. Other contaminants detected in the groundwater during the study included benzene, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

EPA conducted an assessment of the facility in 1990. EPA has not identified any immediate danger to human health or the environment posed by PWT. Although groundwater beneath the site is contaminated, the extent of migration of this contamination cannot be determined from currently available data. Aquatic organisms in the adjacent Lake River and Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge appear to be the most likely receptors of any contaminants potentially moving offsite.

PWT has voluntarily entered into a "Consent Order" with EPA. Under the terms of the Order, PWT will take actions to address existing contamination and to ensure that future contamination does not occur.

PWT has hired the environmental consulting firm of Kleinfelder to perform the required studies and cleanup activities. All work on the site will be conducted in accordance with EPA approved work plans.



If you are not on the mailing list for PWT and would like to be, please fill out this form and return to:

U.S. EPA, Attn: Dwight Davis  
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117(CR)  
Seattle, WA 98105

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10 (HW-117-CR)  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle WA 98101

*Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)*

RCRA Update  
Pacific Wood Treating, Corp.



## Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

July, 1992

### **RCRA Update**

# **Pacific Wood Treating, Corp.**

## **Ridgefield, Washington**

*Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) will be conducting cleanup related activities this summer under the supervision of EPA.*

### **What Will Be Happening?**

In mid-July PWT's contractor will begin to carry out the activities described in the workplan. These include:

- Excavating 26 test pits using a backhoe and constructing 15 soil borings using hollow-stem auger and air rotary drilling. Subsurface soil samples will be collected at 2.5 to 5 foot depths. Thirteen (13) new monitoring wells will be installed.
- Collecting surface soil samples from test pits, subsurface soil samples from borings, and hand explorations for chemical analysis to assess the potential risk to human health and the environment from the potential exposure routes identified in the Workplan.
- Collecting background soil samples to estimate naturally occurring metal concentrations present in the vicinity of PWT.
- Collecting sediment samples in Lake River and in the Wildlife Refuge.
- Surface water and groundwater samples will be collected from storm water outfalls, groundwater seeps, adjacent surface water bodies, and from the new and existing PWT wells.
- Groundwater level monitoring and aquifer testing will be conducted in a number of new and existing PWT wells to characterize the aquifers on site.
- A health and environmental assessment will be completed to evaluate potential risks to human health and the environment.

Throughout these studies, data obtained will be evaluated by both PWT and EPA to identify any immediate threats to human health and the environment. If any such threats are identified, PWT will be required to carry out interim measures to minimize these risks.

### **Who Approved the Work to be Done?**

EPA, in consultation with WDOE and USFWS, reviewed and commented on several drafts of the Site Characterization Workplan. The Workplan was approved on June 17, 1992 and is available for public review at the information repositories.

Much more detailed information about all of the activities is presented in the workplan. Please visit a repository and review the workplan if you would like to read about the details of what is happening.

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Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-6709

Or call toll-free: **1-800-424-4EPA**

**Yes, I would like my name added to the mailing list for the PWT Facility.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return this form to: Dan Phalen, EPA  
Community Relations, HW-117, 1200 Sixth Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98105; or call 1-800-424-4EPA.)



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